

HAROLD'S FURNITURE STORE  
(Keystone Furniture Company)  
4-6 West King Street (southeast corner  
of West King and South Queen Streets  
Lancaster  
Lancaster County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5653

HABS  
PA  
36-LANC,  
9-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
MID-ATLANTIC REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HAROLD'S FURNITURE STORE  
(Keystone Furniture Company)

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Location: 4-6 West King Street (southeast corner of W. King and S. Queen Streets), Lancaster, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

USGS Lancaster, Pennsylvania Quadrangle  
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 18.387520.4432540

Significance: Harold's Furniture Store is the finest and largest of three known examples of Second Gothic Revival style commercial architecture in Lancaster and surrounding counties and is the work of noted Lancaster architect C. Emlen Urban (1863-1939). Harold's represents a successful attempt by Urban to interpret the Perpendicular Gothic style for use with commercial high rise structures as made popular by Cass Gilbert's Woolworth Building (1910-13) in New York City.

Description: Located on Penn Square at the heart of downtown Lancaster, Harold's takes up a prominent position on an architecturally eclectic streetscape comprised of Federal, Italianate, Beaux-Arts, and Neo-Classical commercial buildings which range in height from 3 to 14 stories. Harold's is a 6 story building, rectangular in plan, with mezzanines at the first and second floors. Overall dimensions of the building are approximately 32'-9" X 149'-6". The upper two floors are set back from the front (north) elevation and have overall dimensions of 32'-9" X 106'-6". The building has a full basement which extends beyond the building line on the north side approximately 14'-0". An elevator penthouse is located at the building's southwest corner. A large steel radio tower is located on the sixth floor's flat roof. It serves a radio station with offices on the sixth floor of the building.

Harold's is a steel framed structure. The first floor of the north elevation consists of plate glass display windows and a long, central arcade which lead to the main entrance doors. The arcade has a barrel vaulted ceiling which is covered with scored stucco and pierced on each side by three recessed round arch windows. The first floor mezzanine is articulated on the exterior, above the display windows, by three glazed openings, the borders of which are comprised of original stained glass depicting oak leaves and acorns. The corner pilasters, lintels, mullions, and sign panel are clad with limestone. The corner pilasters and display windows rest on granite bases. Lettering in the sign panel consists of applied, gold colored metal letters and numbers.

The second, third, and fourth floors are clad with matt, gray granite colored terra cotta and are divided into three bays by slender pilasters which pass uninterrupted through each of the three floors. The two narrow side bays have two windows each and the center bay four windows. All windows are wood and pivot about their center vertical axis. Those of the second and third floors have transoms while those of the fourth floor have segmental arched sash. Spandrels are ornamented with linenfold. The paneled lunette located above the central bay of the fourth floor bears shield and ribbon ornament.

The north elevation is terminated by a large frieze and crenelated parapet divided into three bays by slender colonettes and decorated with foils, shields, panels, and floral bosses.

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The fifth and sixth floors and the east elevation are red brick. That of the east elevation was installed against the existing party wall when the infill Conestoga National Bank was demolished to make room for a plaza. Two of the three windows on the sixth floor of the north elevation have been filled in with brick. All other windows on the fifth and sixth floors are four-over-four double-hung wood windows.

Although the interior of the building has been compromised due to numerous alterations over the years, many original details remain, including pendant light fixtures on the fifth floor, staircases, the elevator with manually operated doors, wood baseboards, hardwood flooring, and the second floor mezzanine which is suspended from the structural system above by ornamented iron tie-rods. Drop ceilings with florescent light fixtures and acoustical wall tiles have been installed on most floors. Foundation walls in the basement are constructed of field stone. Several utilitarian partition walls, which extend only partially across the width of the building, visually divide the long, narrow basement floor plan into a series of smaller spaces. Doors in the south wall of the fourth and fifth floors are emergency exits to a fire escape. Doors in the south wall of the first and third floors provide access to an adjacent building. Stairs once located at the north end of the first floor have been demolished. Access to the sixth floor was restricted, but, presumably, its floor plan and structural system are similar to those of the fifth floor.

History:

4-6 W. King Street was built in 1921 for the Keystone Furniture Company to the design of C. Emlen Urban. L.V. Wright was the contractor. Harold's Furniture Store began to occupy the building c.1945. Alterations to the building were undertaken in the 1950s and included the installation of maroon colored Carrara glass and a neon sign across the mezzanine level of the first floor and a tall projecting neon sign which spanned from the second floor to the parapet in the center bay of the north elevation. Damage caused by these alterations caused the present owners, Lancaster Newspapers, Inc., to reconstruct the first floor in 1979. Masonry portions of the storefront were rebuilt using limestone rather than terra cotta. The plate glass display windows appear to be original. The building was listed on the Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places in 1980. In 1990, alterations began to the first floor of the building to accommodate a new tenant, Dauphin Deposit Bank and Trust Company. Alterations to date include the demolition of the first floor mezzanine on the interior of the building, which was hung from ornamented steel tie-rods. Future alterations will include shortening the central first floor arcade by almost three-quarters of its present length.

Sources:

Harold's Furniture Store. Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Inventory of Historic Places nomination form, 1980.

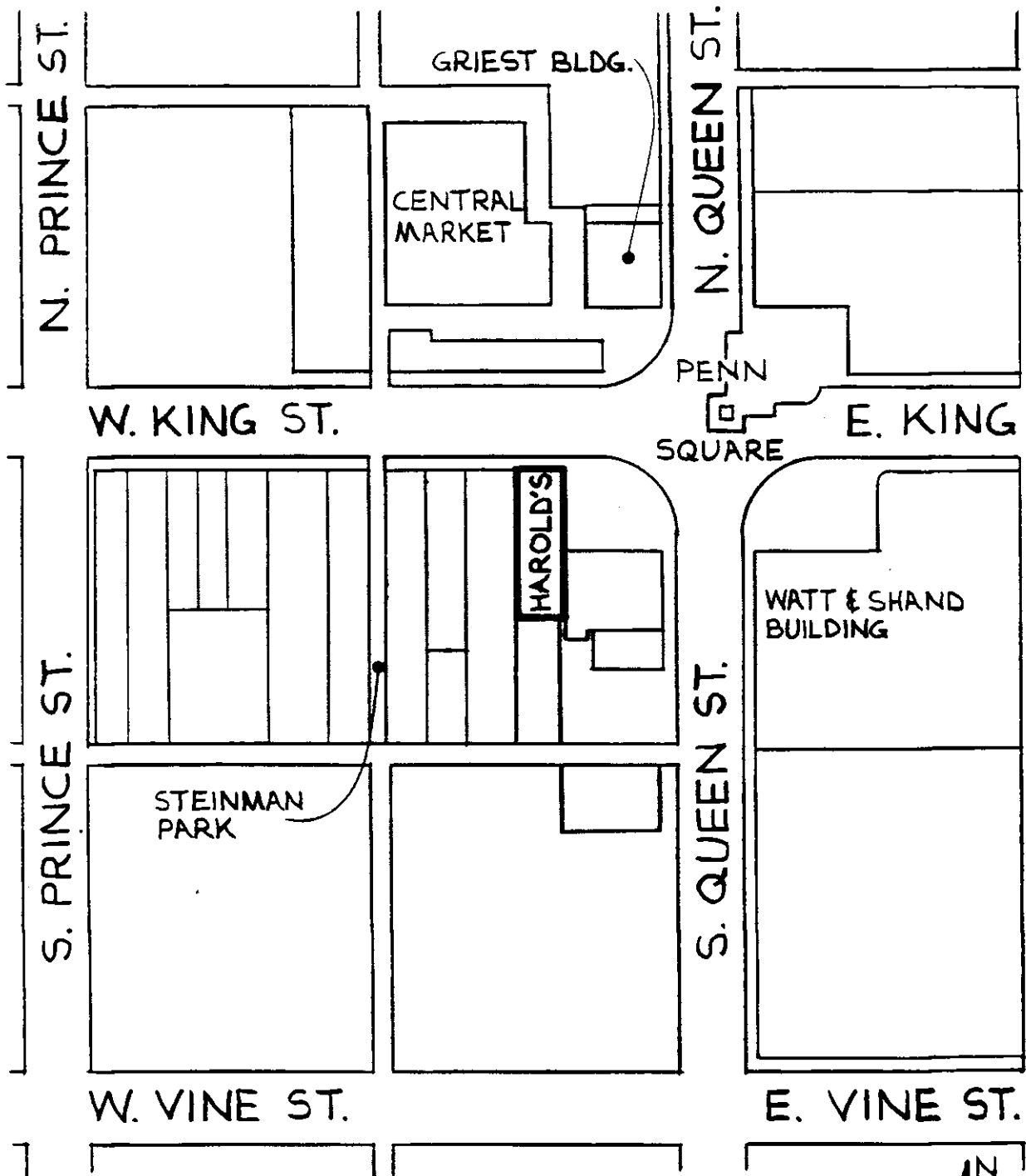
Harold's Furniture Store. Historic Preservation Commendation Nomination Form, Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County, 1979.

Researcher:

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John Milner Associates, Inc., West Chester, Pennsylvania 19380  
January 23, 1992

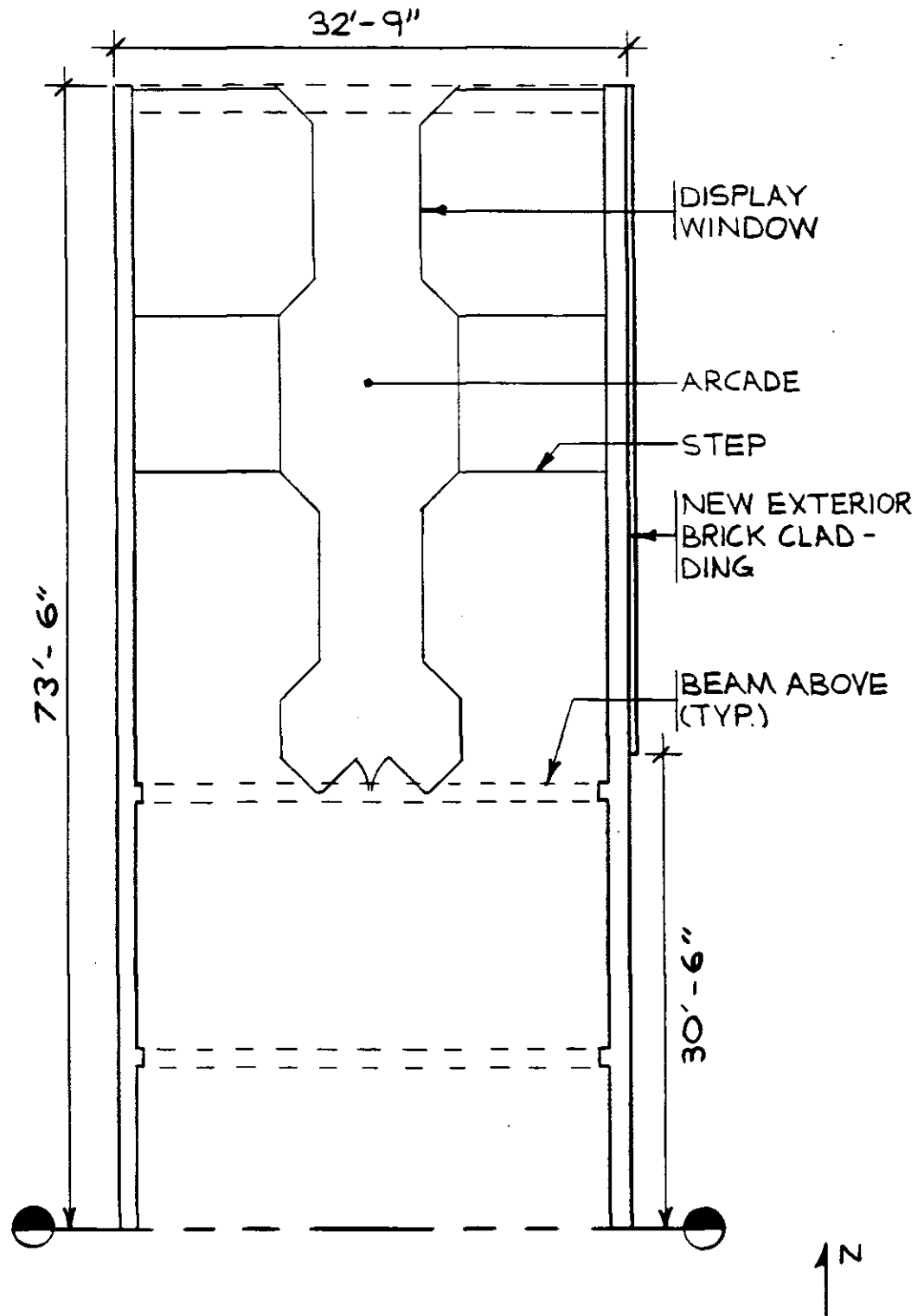
SITE PLAN

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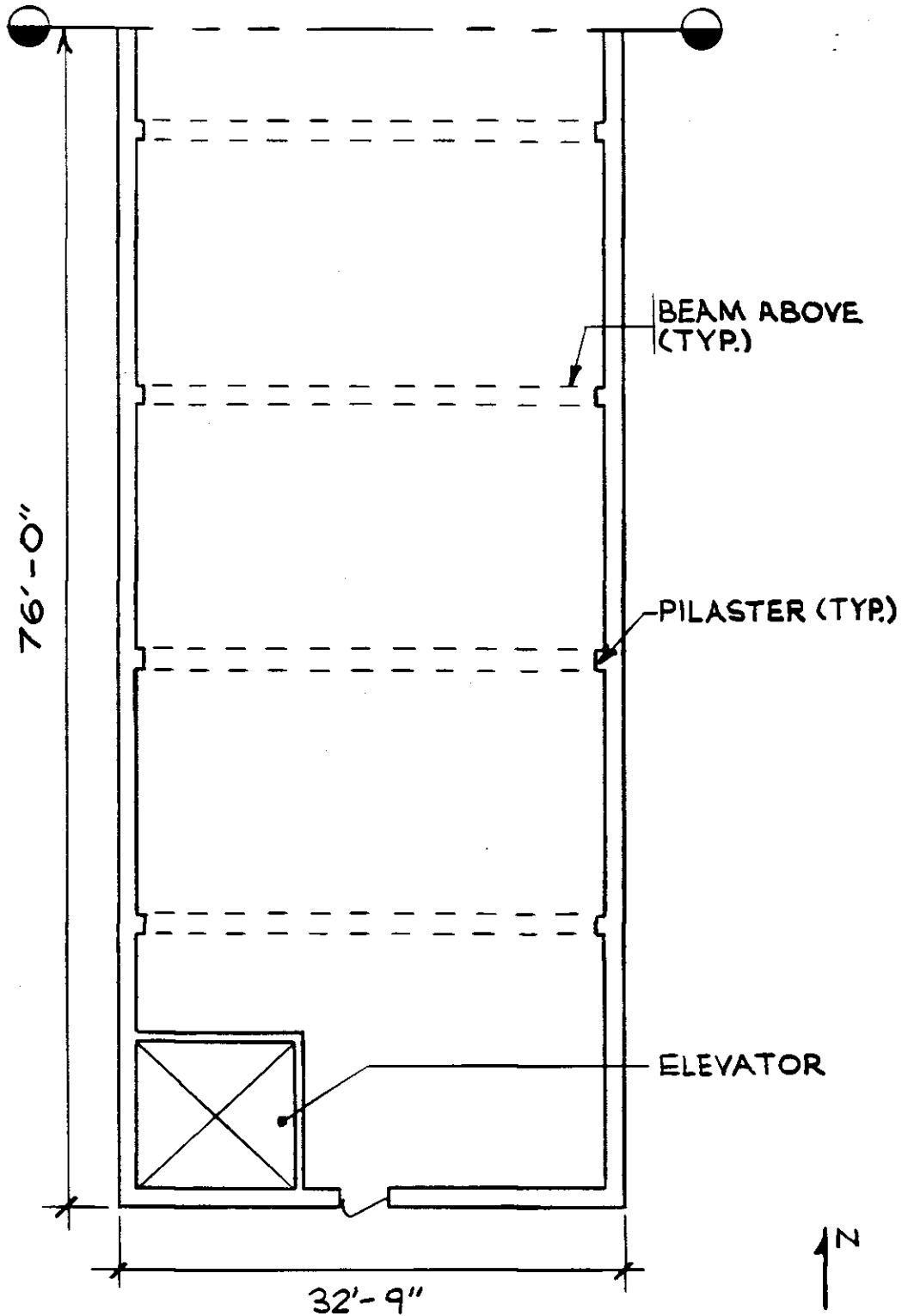
1st. FLOOR PLAN - NORTH

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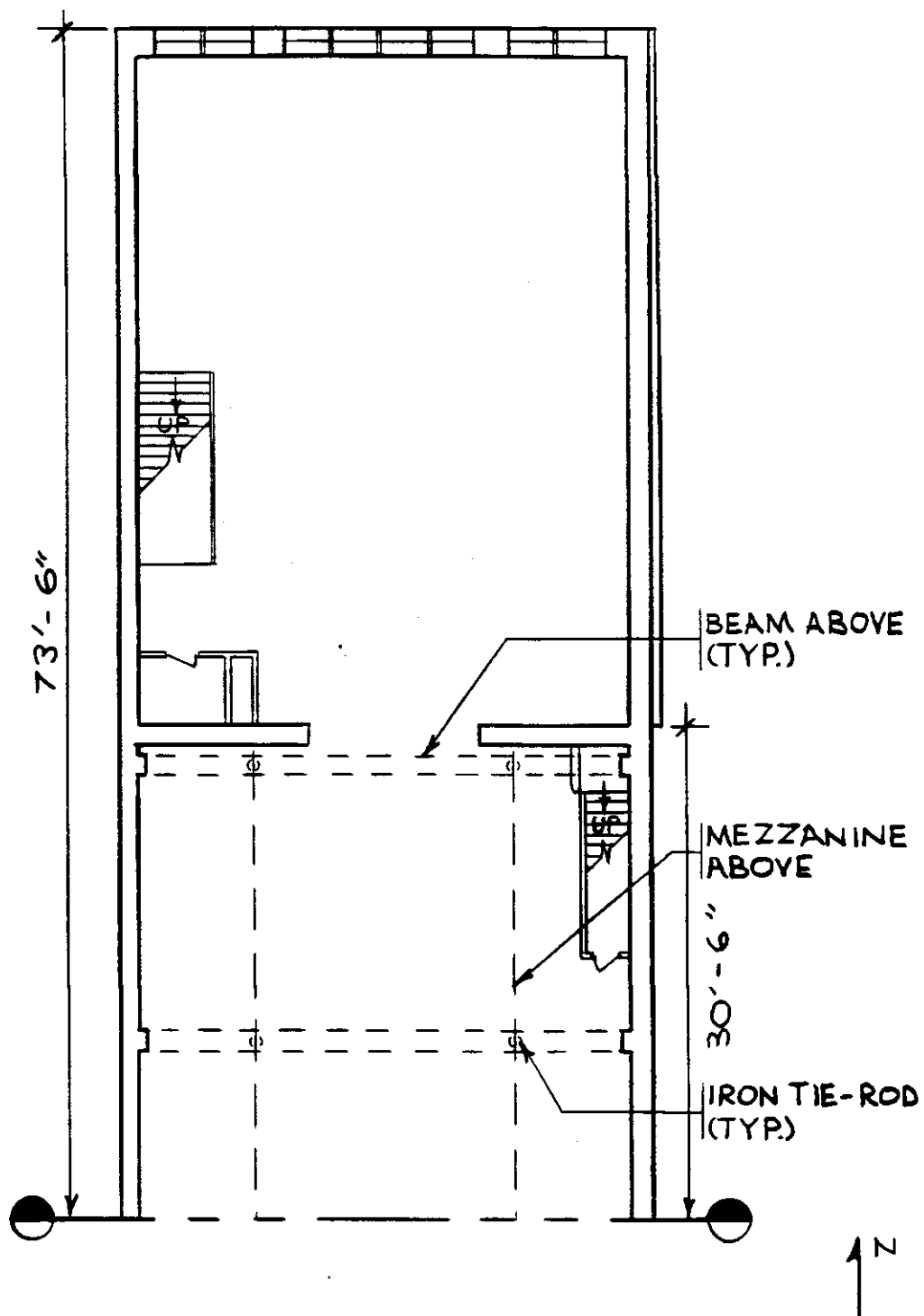
1st. FLOOR PLAN - SOUTH

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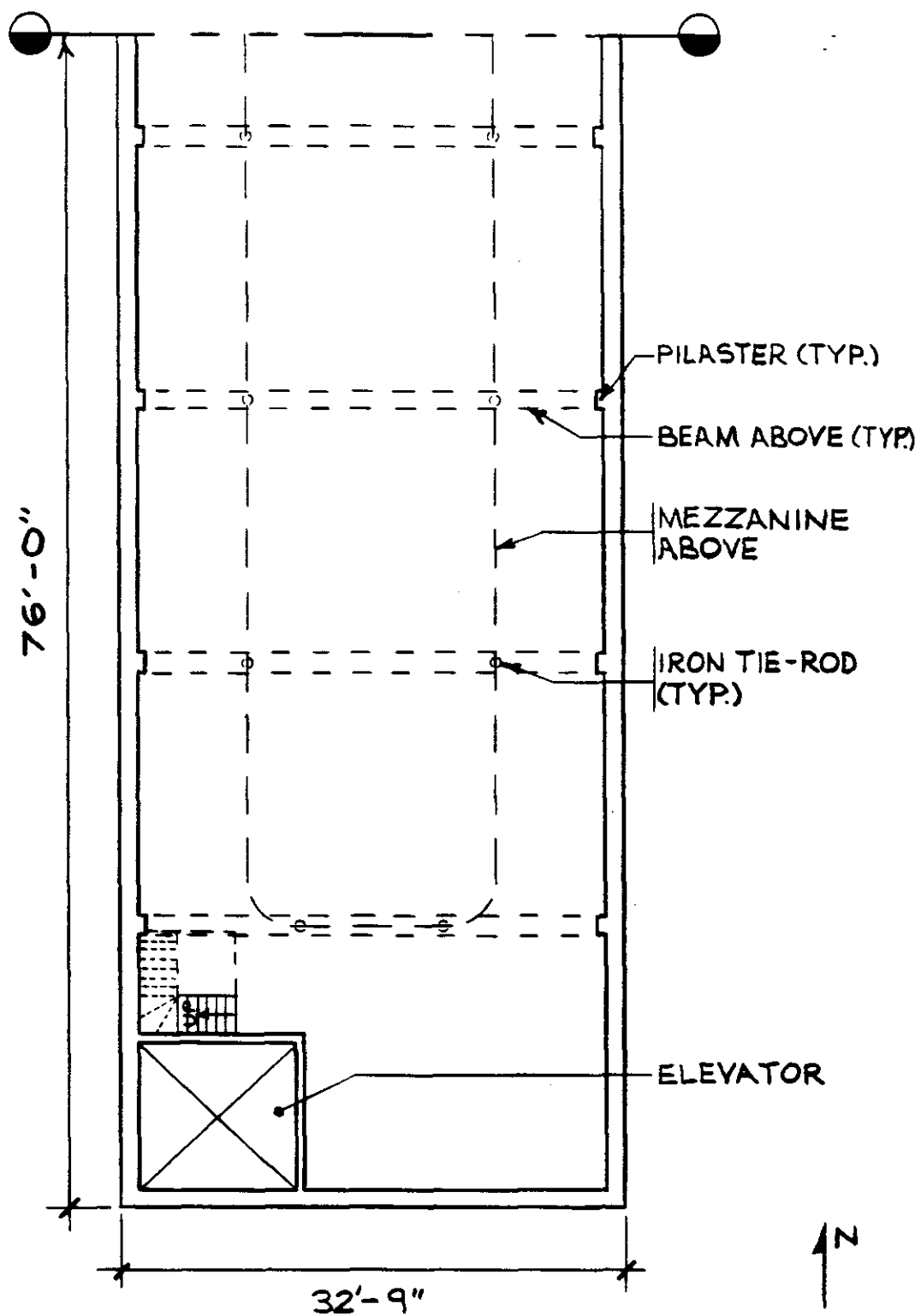
2nd. FLOOR PLAN - NORTH

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2nd. FLOOR PLAN - SOUTH

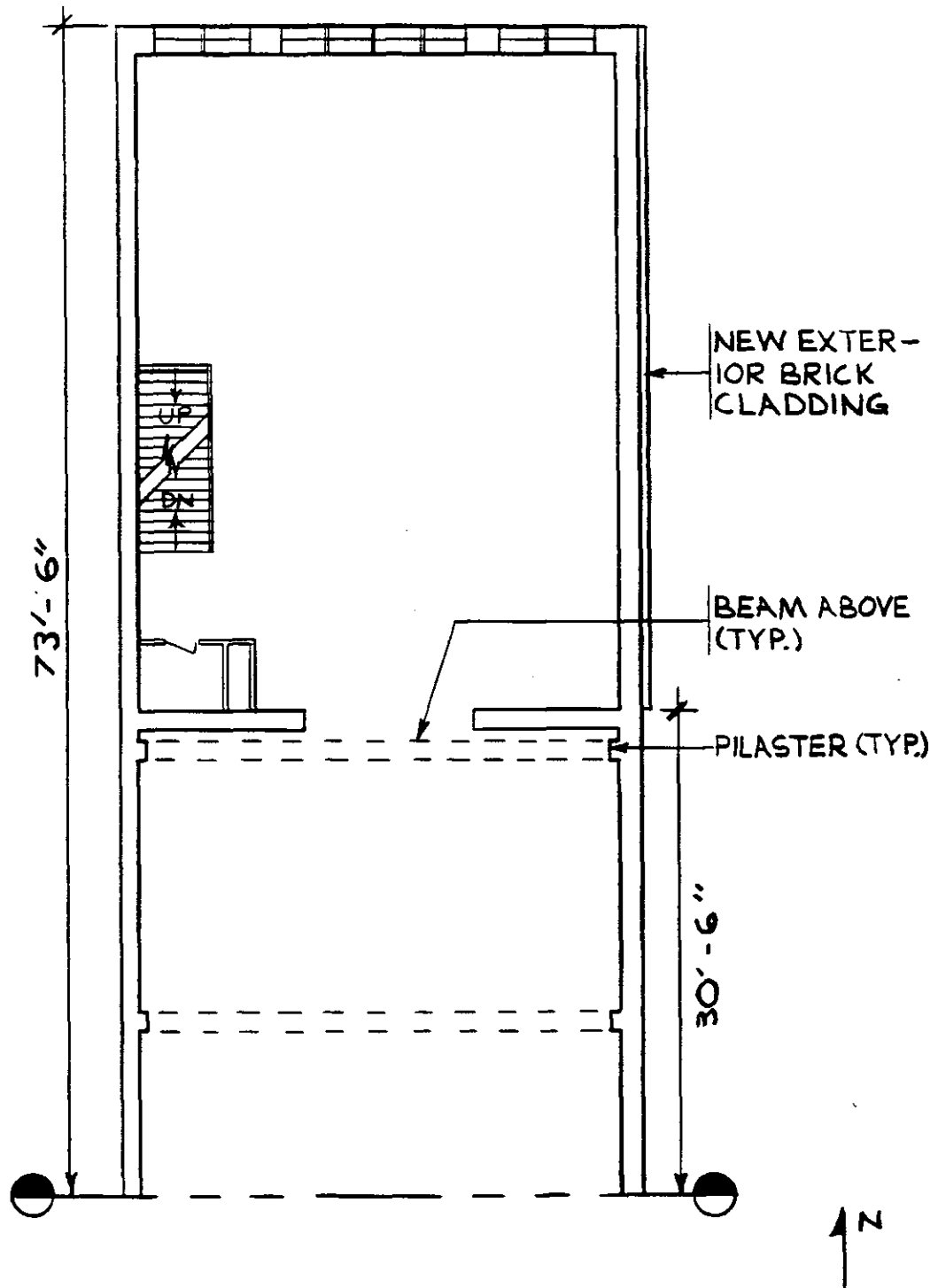
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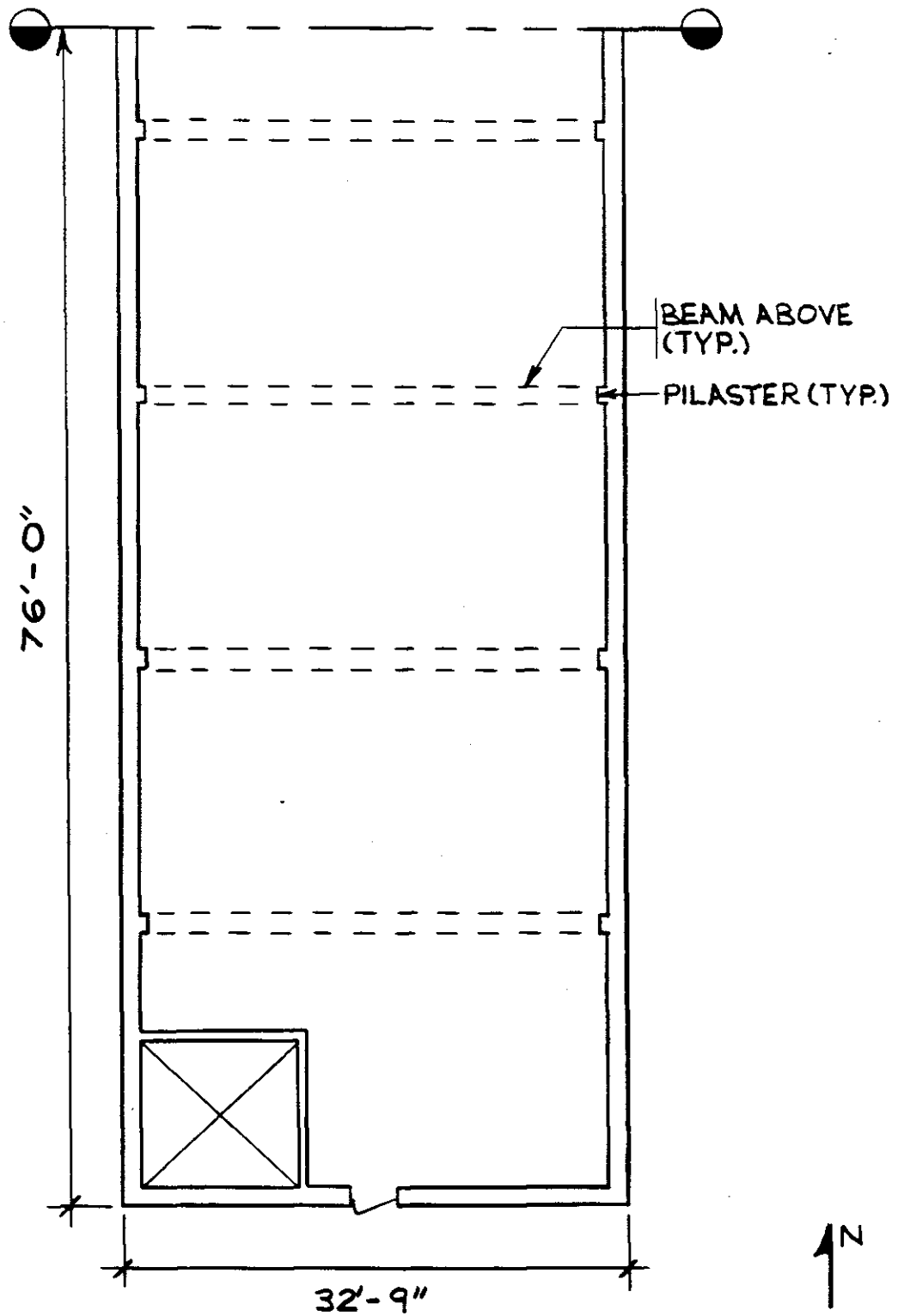
3rd. FLOOR PLAN - North

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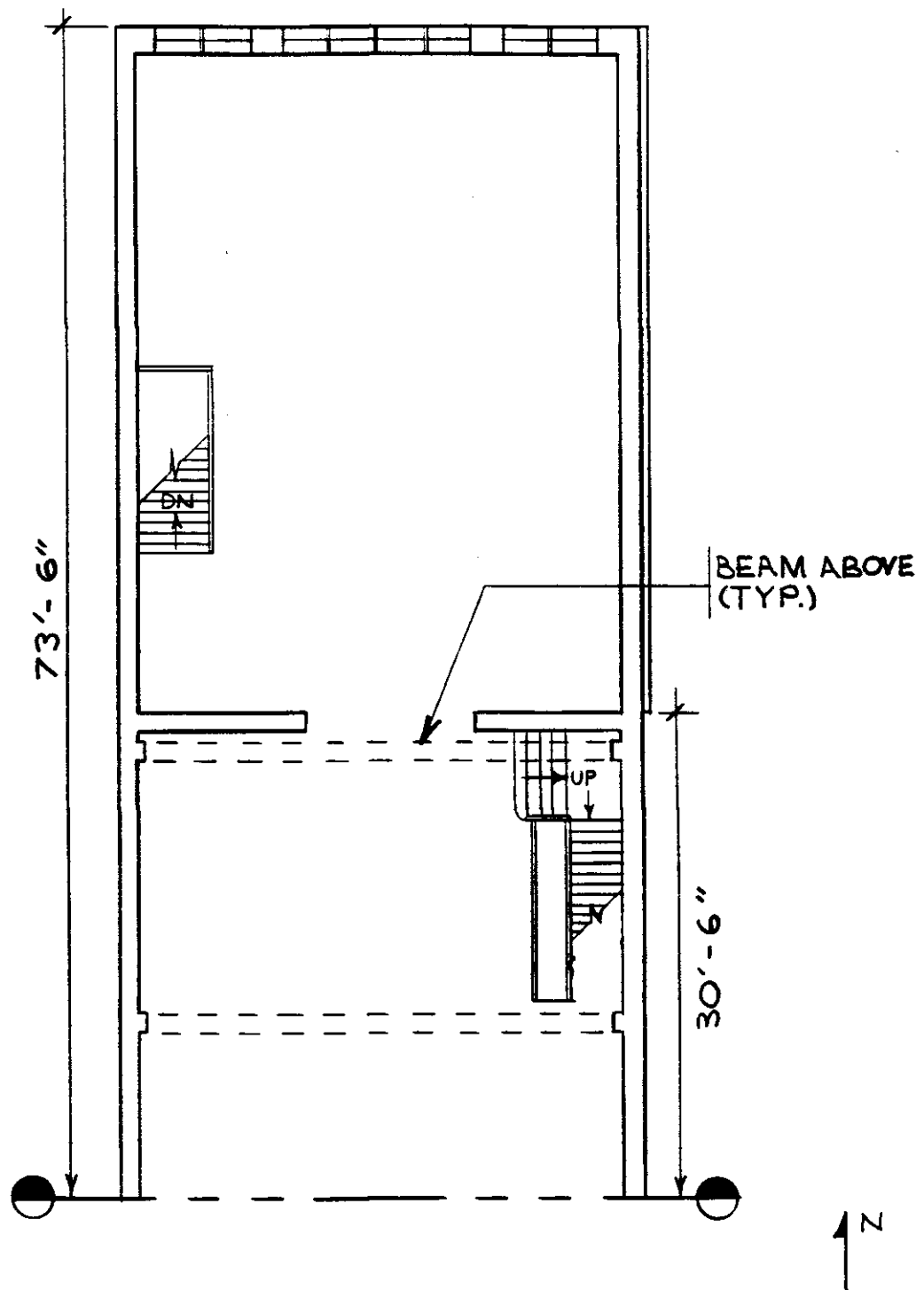
3rd. FLOOR PLAN - SOUTH

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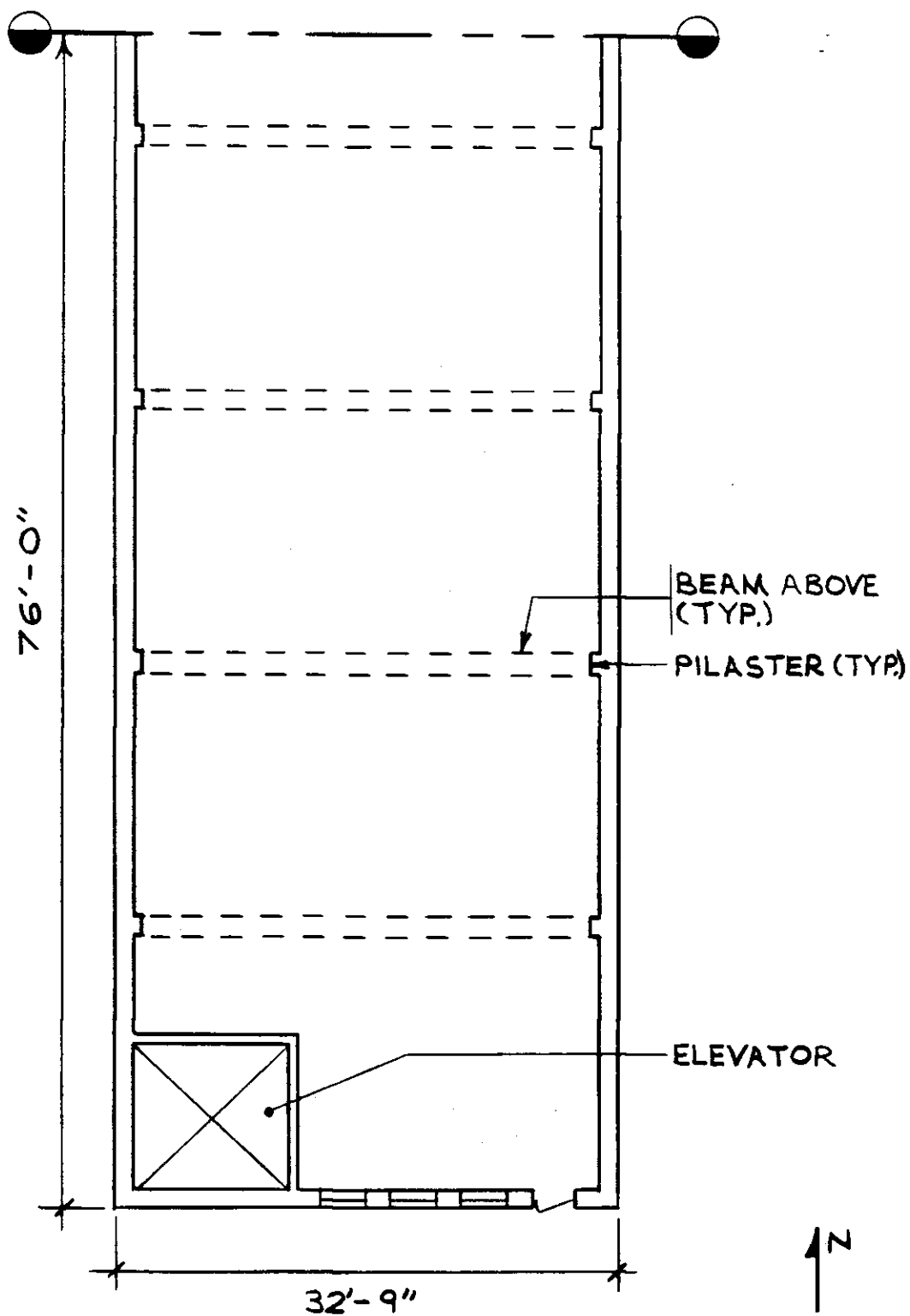
4th. FLOOR PLAN - NORTH

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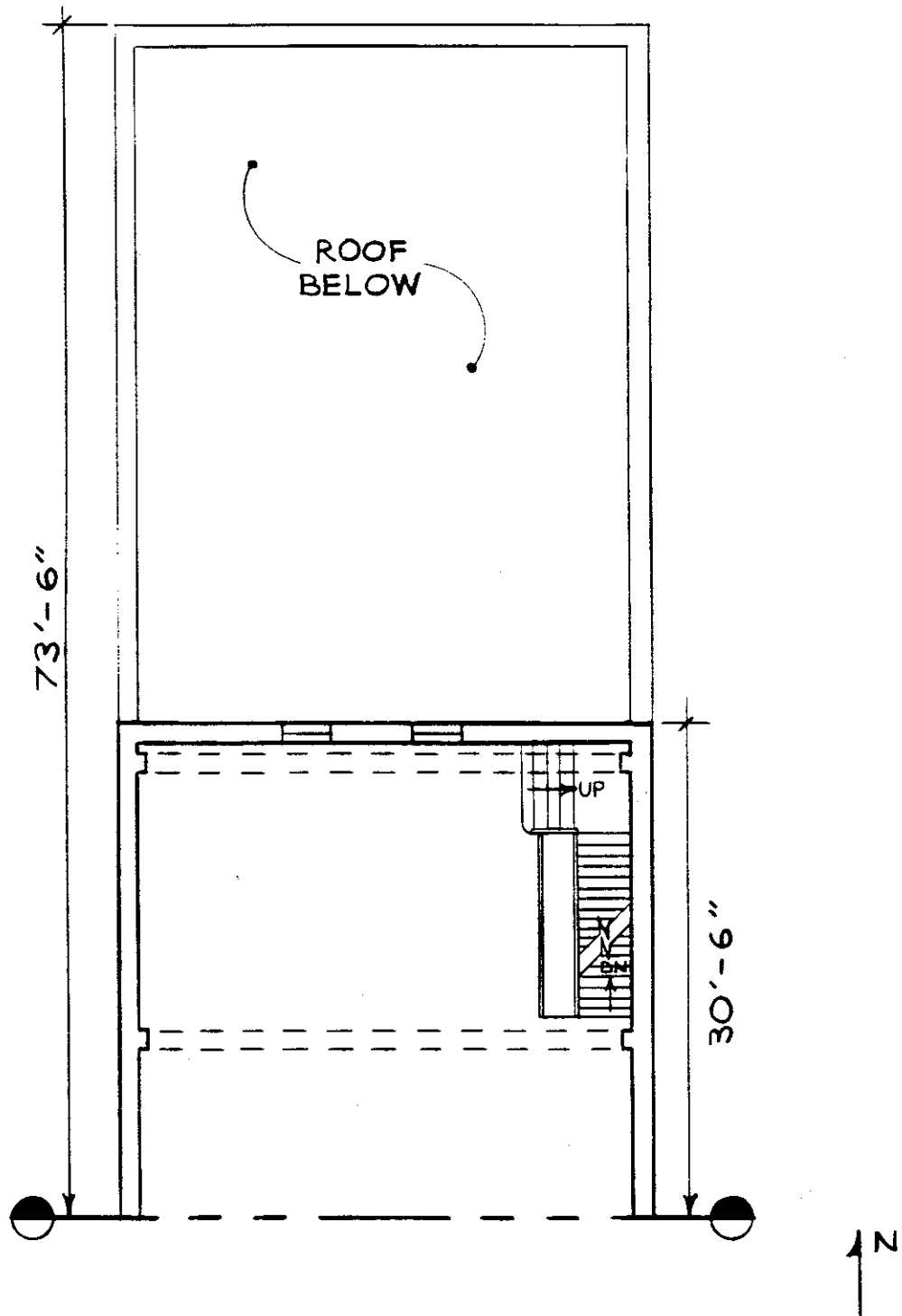
4th. FLOOR PLAN - SOUTH

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5th. FLOOR PLAN - NORTH

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5th. FLOOR PLAN - SOUTH

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